

Appl. No. 09/976,212

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In the Office Action, claims 46 and 49 to 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Opalka et al (United States Patent 6,259,699).

Claims 46 and 51 to 53 have been cancelled.

Each of the dependent claims 47 and 48 have been re-written in independent form incorporating all of the limitations of claim 46. Since page 4 of the Office Action indicates that these claims would be allowable as independent claims, it is believed that claims 47 and 48 are allowable.

Although claims 49 and 50 had been rejected, these claims have been amended to depend from allowable claim 47 and therefore are also believed to be allowable.

New claims 54 and 55 correspond to claims 49 and 50, but depend from the allowable claim 48.

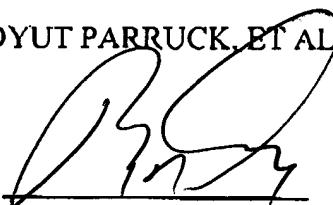
Therefore, all of the claims remaining in the application are either allowed or have been amended to include subject matter that the Office Action indicates is allowable. It should be noted, however, that the amendments reflected in the preceding listing of claims have been made solely to advance the examination of the present application. Applicant in no way concedes that the former claims are unpatentable over Opalka et al.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and early favourable consideration to this end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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